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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 19 | Humidity 91% Generally cloudy sky with light rain Sensex 53,234 | Nifty 15,835 | Gold 52,113 | Silver 57,800 | Dollar 78.91 | Euro 82.45 | GBP 95.81

Syllabus revision delays children's vital lessons post covid-19 pandemic as many schools yet to receive new textbooks

TEXTBOOKED

Karnataka Text Book Society yet to replace old textbooks

| Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The latest textbook revision by the Karnataka government has eaten into the precious academic time of students. It is also proving to be a costly affair for unaided schools in Bengaluru.

Officials of city schools, BM spoke to, said while they are yet to receive a portion of the revised textbooks, the extra copies of old textbooks they purchased during the last academic year have now become obsolete.

"We were not informed about the upcoming book revision exercise last year. We ended up ordering generously and have around 500 copies of the social science and Kannada textbooks that are now lying useless. We are in a fix now," said MN Natesh Kumar, principal of Gurukul International School.

Schools are of the view that while this has created a demand for more copies of the revised textbooks in the schools, the online portal is not active anymore to place orders. The department takes indent in November/December.

"We were not informed about the upcoming revision when we were placing orders in November last year. We ordered fewer copies this year keeping in mind the excess copies we had in store from the last academic year," said the principal of another city-based school.

"We were not informed about the revision... We have around 500 copies of social science and Kannada textbooks now lying useless...

— MN Natesh Kumar, principal, Gurukul International School

The textbooks are printed by the Karnataka Text Book Society (KTBS) for the private unaided and aided schools affiliated to the state board. While the books are free for aided and government schools, unaided schools procure the books paying a 10% advance amount on the number of required copies, followed by the full amount before the classes begin. Most of the schools have made the full payment already.

Many schools told BM that they will incur huge financial losses if KTBS does not take back the old textbooks and replace them with the revised ones.

"We will incur a loss of around Rs 50,000. We are requesting to take back the old books and provide textbooks

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

Helpers who need help

Helpline staff say volunteers receiving 'perverse' queries from fake male callers

| Shreyashi Mukherjee
c-shreyashi.m@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Suicide helplines in the city are meant to help people. Now, though, the helpers themselves are being harassed, BM's told.

The volunteers at the Sahai Helpline are facing a difficult time as female volunteers are often having to attend to an increasing number of fake calls from men. The volunteers said the men in question call not to seek help but to talk about topics of a 'perverse' nature.

Aneesh Chomas, counsellor and coordinator at the Sahai Helpline, said the issue has been prevalent for quite some time now and it is causing a great deal of stress to the female volunteers.

"The men will start by talking about sexual problems. Initially the female volunteers listen because they feel it is genuine. However, the caller will then go into a lot of details and will end up making the volunteer very uncomfortable. The volunteers have suggested they visit a sexologist so that their problems can be dealt with, but they will continue with the calls. It is then the volunteer realises that the person on the other end has other intentions," he said.

He added that the volunteers have shifts and these callers observe the timing of the female volunteers and call only when these volunteers will be available. If these callers come across any male volunteers, they will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Digital aquarium for kids

Nexus Malls is all set to roll out an array of unique activities to bring something new and personal every day to their consumers. In sync with this initiative, Nexus Shanitiniketan Mall has launched Digital Aquarium, a thoughtfully curated marine-themed set up for children. In this never seen before set up, kids can draw any aquatic animal which then appears in a live animation on a VR screen. The whole set up is ensured to boost the imagination and learning curve of the young minds while virtually transporting them to explore the underwater world.

Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall, Whitefield Main Road
When: ongoing
Info: 9606008104

02 Write Out Loud

Lahe Lahe brings to you an evening of baring your soul on paper. Every Tuesday, participate in a heart-plucking session of poetry, and good company. Come, share your poetry in a circle and unwind.

Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar
When: July 5, 7.30-9.30 pm
Contact: 9886294444

03 Rib-tickling humour

Tickle your funny bone with friends & family at the Fox in the Field this Sunday for an unforgettable evening. With over 700 performances up his sleeves in the past 9 years, Hyderabad-based Stand-up comedian, writer, and improv artist RajaSekhar Mamidanna is all set to take you through his magic material. The comedian is sure to make you laugh till the tears roll down with his hilarious anecdotes from life.

Where: Fox in the Field, Nexus Shantiniketan Mall – Whitefield
When: July 10, 7:30 PM
Tickets on: https://bit.ly/3a2LSUY

Chilly feeling in your bones? 'Tis the weather

Temperature to hover between 20 – 26 degrees Celsius; brief spells of rain predicted

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

People, brace yourself for some more chilly spells. With the tech corridor in Bengaluru recording one of the coldest nights for July, latest data by the Met department says that the weather in and around HAL airport has plummeted to 18 degrees Celsius, which is quite unusual.

The forecast added that there will be no respite from the cloudy weather as the city will continue to have an overcast sky along with light rainfall for the next five days and the city's temperature is likely to hover between 20 to 26 degrees Celsius.

Though no rain alert has been issued to Bengaluru, orange and yellow alerts have been issued to many parts of the State.

According to Met officials, the southwest monsoon has become active over coastal and south interior parts of the state and there are no other weather phenomena in place.

Orange alert has been issued for the coastal districts for the next two days, yellow alert for Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Bidar, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan and Kodagu districts. Many areas in the state received heavy rainfall. Kottigehara, Sringeri, Bhagamandala, Gerusuppoa received a maximum of 13 cm, Tumari received 12 cm, Castle rock received 11 cm, Dharmasthala, Udupi and Kollur got 10 cm each.

Met experts have not issued a rain alert for B'luru, yet (file)

A yellow alert has been issued for Belagavi, Bidar, Kalaburagi, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan and Kodagu districts

Meanwhile, Kodagu continued to receive heavy rainfall. Bhagamandala (which is near Tala Cauvery, the birth place of Cauvery River) is cut off from the other parts as the surging waters have covered the entire road.

Harangi reservoir in Kodagu district is brimming and the excess water is now let to the river.

The water level in KRS is steadily increasing and on Monday morning, it rose to 110.64 feet (full reservoir level is 124.8 feet) with 22,466 cusecs of inflows.

In Chikkamagaluru district, the Bhadra is overflowing above the Hebbale bridge, disconnecting the traffic between Kalasa and pilgrim town of Horanadu.

The Gajanur dam built across the Tunga River in Shivamogga has filled to the brim and the excess water is now being flowed to the river.

Under the weather: When medicine sales shot up

With cold spells and intermittent rainfall, it is no surprise that the over-the- counter (OTC) sales of paracetamol and cough syrup have gone up, and many pharmacists say they are refusing to sell such OTC drugs. Chandana, a pharmacist from Lakkasandra said, "We have seen a 15 per cent rise in sales of paracetamol and Chlorpheniramine in the past month."

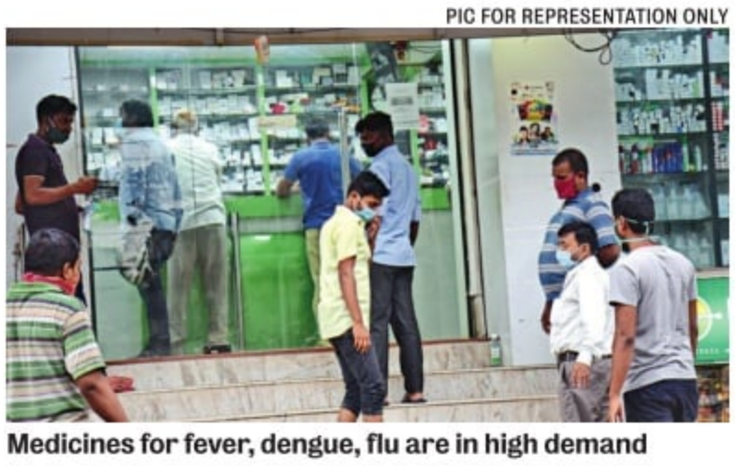
Muralidaran, sales manager of a pharma company also added that they were seeing a rise of 25 to 30 per cent in the supply of medicines. It is not just viral fever but dengue is also on rise and the indicator is a surge in sales for medicines to treat dengue.

Sanjay Kumar, who runs a pharmacy shop in Nagarathpet said, "We are seeing a demand for mosquito repellant creams and medicines for dengue. Demand for Carimax syrup (used for treating pyrexia caused due to mosquito-borne infection) increased by 300 pieces in a month. More than 200 to 300 patients visit the pharmacy every day, complaining of viral fever."

Anitha L, a pharmacist from Konankunte, said that many were going for telemedicine consultants. "At least six out of every 10 patients are reporting complaints of sore throat, fever, runny nose, cough, allergic bronchitis, asthma, and middle ear infection."

-Navya M

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY



Medicines for fever, dengue, flu are in high demand

'Do not self-medicate'

Everyone tends to become an expert after researching online. This is quite dangerous. People should not take fever or cough lightly especially after the outbreak of Covid," said M Shashi Kumar, a general physician.

Medicine prices: Some hiked, some dropped

According to Murali, prices of essential medicines including paracetamol, painkillers, antibiotics, etc were set to go up since April with the government allowing an increase of over 10 per cent for the scheduled drugs. Furthermore, India's drug pricing authority allowed a price hike of 10.7 per cent for scheduled drugs which is under price control.

Over 800 drugs under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) have seen price hikes since April. However, they also said that diabetics tablets Oxra 5mg and 10mg price has decreased from Rs 300 to Rs 115.

The Centre has reduced the price of certain daily-use medicines. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has revised the price of 84 formulations.

The biggest reduction in price is formulations based on Sitagliptin phosphate (a diabetic medicine used to treat Type Two diabetes). Chemists say that it may take months more before the prices start decreasing.

Mechanical sweepers: Time for an upgrade?

With many stretches in Bengaluru being white-topped or revamped under Smart City project, mechanical sweeping machines are redundant and need a change

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

KAUSHIK JN

White-topping work in progress at Goods Shed Road in Bengaluru

The pourakarmika strike which was called off on Monday has taught an important lesson to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) that tech is not always a substitute for human labour. BBMP had decided to use mechanical sweepers from private companies.

However, there was a glitch. These mechanical sweepers cannot be used on white-topped or Smart City roads. Many major roads in the city are being white-topped and in the future, none of these machines are of any use.

As of now, there are 27 mechanical sweepers under the aegis of the civic body. Earlier in the day, BBMP's Special Commissioner (Solid Waste Management) Harish Kumar said, "We were using mechanical sweepers only during night. As the mechanical sweepers are almost the size of a truck, it could create traffic jams if the roads are swept in the daytime. So, we had restricted them for the night only. However, we have no option but to go for day time sweeping as well.

"We have now called for a three-day tender to procure sweeping machines from private companies. As per our estimate, there are around 10 mechanical sweepers with private ones. So, we may have to procure them for a short-term basis. Our aim is to ensure eight to 10 mechanical sweepers for each zone."

However, the current crisis has proved that human intervention is essential for keeping the city roads clean as not all roads are suitable for mechanical ones.

"Mechanical sweepers cannot be used for Smart City roads or white-topped roads. We are unable to do a good job without pourakarmikas at arterial and sub-arterial roads as well," admits Kumar.

> **"We have been witnessing incessant rainfall for the last few days. The garbage has not been cleared and this may cause an outbreak of diseases**
> –Sunil Gowda S, a resident of Laggere

Now, as BBMP is unable to depend completely on technology to keep the streets clean, it has decided to engage personnel temporarily.

"We will be hiring people on a contractual basis for a short term. We would require at least 20 per cent of the pourakarmika force every day. So, the new ones who will be hired will be working for a fortnight and they will be paid as per the labour rules. We have around 16,000 pourakarmikas and out of them 12,000 work on a daily basis," he added.

With intermittent rainfall and uncollected garbage, residents were worried a lot. Sunil Gowda S, who stays in Laggere said, "We have been witnessing incessant rainfall for the last few days. Though it is not heavy, the ground is wet and the garbage is not cleared. I was scared that it would result in an outbreak of diseases. Many are already suffering from viral fever and now, we are scared to walk on the dirty streets. Thankfully, the strike has been called off."

Sajjan Raj Mehta, a trade activist, added that due to the pourakarmika strike, there are black spots everywhere on the roads. "The main business areas like Chickpet and neighbouring roads are filled with trash and this is affecting business as well."

Officers arrested for corruption

Senior police officer, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Amrit Paul, was arrested by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officials on Monday, for his alleged involvement in the scam of police sub-inspector recruitment examination. The IPS officer was involved in tampering with the OMR sheets of the PSI aspirant recruits. Paul was produced before a court that sent him to 10 days police custody for further investigation.

At present, ADGP, Amrit Paul has been serving as the chief of Internal Security Division (ISD) and the PSI examination scam took place during Paul's tenure when he was heading the police recruitment wing, Karnataka.

The scam came to light after one of the candidates, Veeresh N, who ranked 7 among a total of 67 candidates from Karnataka, managed to obtain 121 marks after answering only 21 questions out of 100 in an objective question paper for 150 marks.

"He (Veeresh) had left the answers blank and someone from the department had filled in the answers for him. He managed to score 121.

More than 50 people were arrested, including a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) Shanthakumar, who was responsible for the security of the strong room. CID officials collected evidence of tampering of the OMR sheets which revealed that Paul was allegedly involved in the scam that the police say involves more than Rs 100 crore.

CID given free hand: CM

Chief Minister Bommai said, "The CID has been given a free hand. They have taken action based on evidence."

IAS officer arrested

IAS officer and ex-Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner J Manjunath was arrested on Monday by the Anti-Corruption Bureau sleuths on corruption charges. The action was taken after the High Court came down on the ACB, saying that it has turned into a 'collection centre'. It had even sought the presence of the ACB chief following a closure report filed against an officer in which Manjunath was also an accused. ACB arrested him from his home in Yeswanthpur. **–AGENCIES**

Happy eating! Dining out just got cheaper, folks

Department of Consumer Affairs restricts restaurants from levying service charge; customers can breathe easy now

Shreyashi Mukherjee
c-shreyashi.m@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

If you're one of those who hate paying an extra service charge every time you dined out, we've got good news for you. The Department of Consumer Affairs on June 3 issued an order that restricts the hotels from levying compulsory service charges in their bills and even stated it to be illegal. This comes as a welcome move to customers who feel that this decision was much-needed and it would help them from spending additional money while dining out.

Soundarya Gowda, a resident of Nagasandra, said, "There have been times when I went to a particular hotel and did not like the food or certain aspects of the restaurant. When such kind of things happen, I feel that asking for service charges is not right because we are paying for a service that we did not like, which is not fair."

The customers are also of the view that paying service charges should be a choice that must be given to the customers. Raag K, residing in Indiranagar, said that by not paying the service charge, we will be able to save some amount of money, it might not be much but still after covid even a little means a lot because everyone suffered financially during the pandemic.

The restaurant owners, on the other hand, feel that this move will affect their staff members. The operation manager of Vapour Pub and Brewery, said, "Removing service tax will impact the staff. The money from the service charges usually goe to the staff and now that we cannot levy service charges, it will become difficult for the management to financially deal with the situation. They will have to shell out money from their own pockets."

The restaurants in the city also say that they cannot cut down the salary of their staff because if they do so, everyone would leave and they would have to shut shop. Some of them are also planning to increase the food prices in the near future.

You no longer have to spend extra on service charge if you eat out

Green shoots even where once there was garbage

With help from Save Green NGO, Gottigere residents clear waste and plant saplings

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Around 150 families residing at Sai Supreme Apartments at Gottigere used to suffer a lot due to the waste accumulated at a dry waste collection centre situated on Kammanahalli Link Road till Saturday. These families were running pillar to post to find a solution for the garbage issue but all was in vain. Finally, they decided to fix the problem on their own with guidance and support from Save Green, an environmental NGO volunteer.

"We suffered a lot due to the dry waste collection centre adjacent to our apartment complex. The dry waste collection centre has to segregate waste and dispose of or supply it to recyclers but the people working at the dry waste collection centre accumulated waste. The accumulated waste looked like a small mountain," said Kishore Kumar V, a resident of Sai Supreme Apartment Complex.

He said there are two dry waste collection centres for two wards – Konanakunte and Gottigere. "We have raised the dry waste collection centre issue during the ward committee meeting narrating how it has become a health hazard for the residents," he said.

Demanding the BBMP authorities to relocate the dry waste collection centre without any delay, Viayalakshmi R, a resident, has said the accumulated dry waste was a health hazard for the people residing adjacent to it. "The people working at the dry waste collection centre have stored the dry waste in an open place. Whenever it rains, dry waste becomes wet and it generates a bad odour. I want the BBMP authorities to shift this dry waste collection centre to another place in the interest of people residing at Sai Supreme Apartment Complex," said Vijayalakshmi.

She complained that noise generated from the movement of auto tippers has been a nuisance to people working from home. "We bought the flat here more than six years ago. The space adjacent to our apartment was clean. However, it became hell after opening the dry waste collection centres here," she said, adding that there was a fire mishap one-and-half year ago at the dry waste collection centre.

Save Green volunteers helped the residents with the task and planted saplings.

"We are very happy to plant saplings in association with residents. It was a very tough task to clear the garbage and prepare the land for planting saplings," said Save Green vice president Tejaswini K.

The volunteers said that they had to spend double the amount than the actual budget.

"It took more time to clear accumulated garbage and level the ground for planting saplings. The actual budget was Rs 15,000 but we ended up spending Rs 50,000 due to the quantum of garbage to be cleared. Three tippers' load of garbage was cleared from the spot. Residents of Sai Supreme Apartment Complex have also contributed," said Hemanth K, president of Save Green.

Citizens bring the best out of a dry waste collection centre on Kammanahalli Link Road

> **We suffered a lot due to the dry waste collection centre adjacent to our apartment complex. The accumulated waste looked like a small mountain**
>
> –Kishor Kumar V, resident

Animal waste processing plant on the cards

Residents of Mahadevapura and 11 villages have a reason to celebrate. If all goes well, these residents don't have to suffer due to unhygienic ways of animal waste being dumped in public spaces due to absence of a proper disposal mechanism.

Mahadevapura MLA Arvind Limbavali laid a foundation stone for a Rendering Plant also known as Protein Recovery Plant. The first-of-its-kind plant is to be constructed at Hosur Bande of Kannur Village Panchayat.

Rendering is a process of cooking raw offal materials to remove fat and moisture from the protein and bone. Rendering serves two purposes: it separates offal into fat and protein components and it cooks the animal tissue. This converts waste animal tissue into stable, value-added materials.

Four major products are produced as a result of poultry offal rendering: Fat in the form of oil and grease, feather meal, poultry meal and blood meal. Feathers are rendered separately from other offal due to their complex protein keratin that must be broken down by hydrolysis.

KAUSHIK JN

Meanwhile in many parts of the city, garbage lies uncollected as civic workers were on a strike. The strike was called off on Monday evening.

Bana Eco Works has signed an agreement with the Kannur Village Panchayat to set up this plant. THe panchayat is expected to provide land and water to the plant.

"It is a moment of great pride that this first-of-its-kind plant is being established in Mahadevapura. This will eliminate the indiscriminate dumping of animal waste," said Lingaraj Urs.

Suresh Ramaswamy, a resident of Kannur said that dumping of animal waste at roadside drains, vacant sites and water bodies had become a nuisance.

Abhishek MN of Bana Eco Works told Bangalore Mirror that the Rendering Plant would be expanded in three phases. "We are investing Rs 5 crore for the first phase, Rs 4 crore in the second phase, Rs 4 crore in the third phase. We need four months to complete the construction of the plant," said Abhishek.

Baana Ecoworks would deploy refrigerated trucks for collection of animal waste, he said. "It is expected that 11 villages and areas in Mahadevapura will generate 10 tonnes of animal waste during the weekdays and 12 tonnes during the weekends," he said.

Kannur Village Panchayat Executive Officer K Manjunath said the plant would solve animal waste problems at villages such as Kannur, Dodda Gubbi, Bidarahalli, Kithaganur, Mandur, Avalahalli, Seegehalli, Kannamangala, Kodathi, Doddabanahalli, and Halanayakanahalli.

"We have provided land and promised to supply water. We gave a no objection certificate (NOC) for power supply," said the executive officer.

– Y Maheswara Reddy

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

No place to walk
Jayanagar

Pavement occupied for parking is forcing pedestrians to walk on the road. It is on the corner of 11th Main and 36th Cross Road, 4th Block Jayanagar.

Undrinkable water
Indiranagar

Drainage is not closed for many months now and has contaminated drinking water near 100 feet road.

No end to the wait
Indiranagar

The civic work is incomplete on 100 feet road for the past 2 years.

City travellers' baggage nightmare in Frankfurt

Shreyashi Mukherjee
c-shreyashi.m@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Fliers were at sea when they landed in Frankfurt after delay and cancellation of several flights caused them to be separated from their baggage. Many from the city, who were in the German city, said they had to wait in queues for more than 24 hours and some were even yet to not receive their luggage.

They said this chaos was caused as several flights had been cancelled, but the airport authorities kept all the baggage at the same place. They also said the airport staff did not help them.

Raghu Muddenath, a resident of Whitefield, said, "I was travelling on a Lufthansa flight from Frankfurt airport to Venice. However, the flight got delayed and later cancelled and there was no proper communication from the airport authorities. They just informed us our baggage had been kept in the airport. We reached there and saw that hundreds of other bags were in the same area. It was not possible to find it among so many other bags. I asked the authorities for help, but they did not do anything either, saying that they could not find our luggage even after we gave a description of it. We have been in the airport for one whole day and still could not find our luggage."

The passengers said airport authorities were not able to give them any information about their belongings. Sandeep S, another passenger, from Richmond Town, said, "After covid, this was the first time we went on a holiday with family which was disrupted because of the irresponsibility of the authorities. We booked a Lufthansa flight that was going to Switzerland from Frankfurt airport. Our flight was delayed, and our luggage was nowhere to be seen. We asked for help but there was no one to help us. We have been stranded at the airport and there is still no sign of our luggage."

Several from the city who were travelling after long hiatus due to covid, were left with a bitter taste after the wait for their bags

On July 2, Frankfurt airport had tweeted, "Due to high passenger numbers, we are experiencing disruptions and longer wait times for passengers."

They also added that on the return journey, the passengers might experience significant wait times, particularly at the baggage claim area.

All we are saying is give trees a chance

Concrete is just too close for comfort around the roots of trees on Nandi Durga Road. The footpath is being repaired and the cement has been slathered on all around trees too

Nandi Durga Road repair work is creating concrete chokehold along roots of fully grown trees

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is carrying out road repair work on Nandi Durga Road. While the road is being asphalted and the footpath is being repaired, once again the workers are all set to choke the trees with concrete. This has made the commuters and residents of the area anxious.

Even a cursory glance of the stretch will reveal that many trees are on the verge of being choked by concrete as the work on the footpath progresses.

"They have put cement right up to the base of the trees. The BBMP is famous for doing the same thing all over the city despite concerned citizens bringing this to their notice time and again. They are working on the footpath of the stretch, and they have already put the wet mix up to the roots of the trees with such glee," said Manju Cherian, a resident of the area.

Locals say more than 20 fully grown trees on the stretch will soon be either concretized or tiled up to the trunk if BBMP officials do not intervene.

"This problem can be seen across the city with BBMP's uncaring work process. They are killing the trees at whatever work they are attempting. We reached out to the area MLA, but his office refused to interfere saying this doesn't come to them but to Hebbal constituency," said another visibly upset Bangalurean.

Experts say there are a plethora of directions and orders given by various courts across the country on keeping the area around tree trunk concrete free. The most recent was the 2013 order by the National Green Tribunal. As per the order, there should be at least a one-meter radius of concrete free space around the avenue trees.

"We have been bringing up this issue for the last 7-8 years. But, BBMP contractors keep repeating the same mistake –Dattatraya Devare, Bengaluru Environment Trust

BC Nagaraja, professor, department of Environment Science, Bangalore University says that around 75% of the trees in the urban landscape today are experiencing one or the other stress.

"The avenue trees in many places across the city are somehow managing to stand. We have chopped off roots and branches, concreted them up to the trunk, and made them vulnerable to pests and diseases. It is a wonder that many of them are still standing," said Nagaraja.

Experts say tree roots breathe oxygen too, as we do. However, when the trees are concreted or asphalted up to their trunks, roots stop respiring and eventually become weak and die. The formation of cankers due to injury and lack of root aeration and termite, pathogen and insect attack are only some of the impacts on trees that are asphyxiated by concrete.

Open spaces around tree bases assist trees in absorbing water and nutrients from their surroundings, apart from taking in oxygen from the atmosphere.

"If a root does not have breathing space, it will decay and get infested. Moreover, rainfall also brings in nutrients and a concretized surface around a tree will not let the water with nutrients percolate, but rather be washed away. In western countries, they leave around a three to four meters radius around tree trunks. They also create a slope gradient so that all the water reaches the tree. Sufficient space should be left around the tree for rainwater infiltration, aeration and soil health," said Nagaraja.

As per the environmentalists and tree activists, there is no system in place to ensure that trees are handled well by the contractors hired by the BBMP.

"We have been bringing up this issue for the last seven to eight years. However, BBMP contractors keep repeating the same mistake. The Palike should ensure that there are strict terms and conditions around the handling of trees in the road contract to be awarded to contractors. There should be a standard binding condition for all contractors and they should be penalized for making such mistakes. However, the ground truth is that BBMP officials are not giving these instructions verbally too. The contractors on the ground are unaware of these nuances when they are enquired," said Dattatraya Devare, trustee of Bengaluru Environment Trust.

Manhunt on for harasser of cyclists

Police have launched a manhunt for a biker who has been misbehaving with women cyclists in Bengaluru, police said on Monday.

According to police, a speeding biker was harassing women, but managed to disappear from the spot every time.

Separate complaints have been filed in the Sadashivanagar police station, the latest being on Sunday when a woman cyclist was hit from behind. She also told police that on May 25, a bike rider who came from behind touched her inappropriately near Mehkri Circle. The incident on Sunday happened at a place on the New BEL Road, which is located 500 metres from the jurisdictional police station. The accused biker targeted another woman cyclist near the Cauvery Junction Underpass in the limits of Sadashivanagar police station. The victim had also lodged a separate police complaint stating that she had also gone through a similar experience. On both occasions, the women cyclists have not been able to identify the bikers or note down the registration number of the bike. Both noticed that the biker carried a bag on the rear side of the vehicle. **IANS**

City girls go for gold

The Karnataka State Dodgeball team won the Gold Medal at the National Junior Dodgeball Championship held recently. Kanchi Kothari (Class 10) and Simon (Class nine); students of HAL Public school were part of the team. The Championship was held from June 24 to 26 at St. Francis College, Koramangala. School principal Seema Gupta said this win has motivated many more students to prove their mettle in the fields of sports and culture.

Old books, new text

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the revised syllabus. If there is a difference in the amount, we are ready to pay. But we should not be forced to pay the whole amount. It is the government's mistake. If only they had informed us about their plan to revise the syllabus, we would have been careful with the orders," said the principal of yet another unaided city-based school.

The Association of Primary and Secondary Schools of Karnataka reached out to the department of public instruction urging it to reopen the online portal and help the schools to replace old textbooks.

"We have requested the commissioner to take back old books and replace them with new sets. Many schools require more copies of the revised textbooks as they placed orders for fewer copies.

Moreover, schools are also experiencing fluctuations in the number of admissions. While the number of admissions is lower than expected in some classes, it is higher in others. Nursery and primary admissions are low, and in higher grades the admissions are more than expected. We have raised a request to open the portal with the provision to take back the old books and credit the money to the respective schools. We reached out more than ten days ago but nothing concrete has come up yet," said D Shashi Kumar, secretary of the association.

Fake callers at helpline

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

immediately disconnect the call. Aneesh also mentioned that it is not just the female volunteers who have faced these callers, but male volunteers too receive such calls.

"Since it is a helpline number, we cannot ask the people to not call. We have a call forwarding system; whenever someone calls, we forward it to our volunteers, hence it becomes difficult to block these calls as well," added Aneesh.

Shalini Shetty, a psychologist, said, "Since these callers do not have to show their real identity, they can be anyone they feel like over the call. Such behaviour makes them feel that they have power over the other person which they usually cannot experience in their actual life because the society will look down upon them if they behave in the same manner. Moreover, such behaviour can also arise due to isolation and extreme loneliness."

The helpline started receiving calls from people who would express their problems such as losing their jobs or were suicidal, in 2020, when the pandemic started. Since then, the queries have been on the rise. They also receive calls from people who are suffering from family issues and marital problems.

Bhanvi Sharma, currently working as a freelance photographer, said, "During the pandemic I had lost my job; it was a dark time for me. I knew going and telling this to my parents would make them worried. I did not want to do that. My friends were also dealing with other problems. I did not want to burden them further, so I ended up calling up this helpline. Just having someone to listen to my problems without judging helped me feel better."

Anti-venom research centre in city

A new Anti-Venom Research and Development Centre would come up in Bengaluru at a cost of Rs seven crore for which foundation was laid on Monday.

Till then, the centre would start functioning at Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology (IBAB), "Bengaluru Helix Biotech Park" located in Electronics city in the next 5 years.

Speaking after laying the foundation, Karnataka Minister for IT-BT and Skill Development and Training, Dr C N Ashwath Narayan said, India is considered the global capital for snakebites, causing 58,000 deaths and 137,000 disabilities annually.

He expressed confidence that the centre would contribute to reducing the number of deaths due to snakebites to which farmers are the majority of victims in the country.

"One of the major limitations of pursuing snake venom research in India is the lack of accessibility to venoms. Owing to this, a vast knowledge gap exists in the field of snake venom research in the country," the minister said.

The centre will house about 500 snakes from about 23 species and other venomous animals like scorpions, spiders, etc from the Indian sub-continent. **PTI**

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7846000222

I, Manohara C.R R/o No.36, Bagalur Main Rd, Sarjapur, Bengaluru Rural 562125 have changed my minor daughter S H A N V I T H A C H O W D A D E N A H A L L I MANOHARA to SHANVITHA MANOHARA affidavit Dt.04/07/2022 notary K.V Mani, B'luru

I Chethan Kumar (old Name) S/O, Venkappa Setty R/o No. 3427, Sri Venkatadri Nilaya, 9th Ward, Durgamma Temple Road, Hiriyur - 577598 Chitradurga have changed my name to Aimangala Venkappa Setty Chethan Kumar (new Name) for all purposes.

I Rekha Basavesha W/o Basavesha K G, R/o No 13/25, 5th cross, Near Dattriya Temple, Swimming Pool Extn, Malleswaram, Bengaluru 560003 have changed my name to Rekha Basavapura Sadashivappa For All Purposes.

I, Vikshita L Jain W/O, Ronit Bhandari R/o No.456, 7th Main 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560011 have changed my name to Vikshita Jain for all purposes

I, AKRAM PASHA ALLAH BAKHASH R/at #3342/3, Sait Compound,Bangarpet -563114. I, Have changed my name to AKRAM PASHA Vide Affidavit Dated: 02/07/2022. Sworn before Notary: M.Rajendra, Advocate, Bangalore

I, Manohara C.R R/o No.36, Bagalur Main Rd, Sarjapur, Bengaluru Rural 562125 have changed my minor daughter TANVI CHOWDADENAHALLI MANOHARA to TANVI MANOHARA affidavit Dt.04/07/2022 notary K.V Mani, B'luru

I, Pooja Y, D/o. Yogesh Kumar, R/at 64, 1st floor, 20th 'B' main, venkateshwara layout, BTM 1st stage, Bangalore- 560068, have changed my name as Pooja Mittal Vide affidavit dated 01.07.2022 before notary Harisha.G Bangalore.

I, Rekha Jagadish W/O, Jagadish Jayanada R/o No.9495, Sri Saila, Upkar Springfields, Neralur, Bengaluru-562107 have changed my name to Rekha Hanja Rajendra for all purposes.

I, Vishwnatha Siddappa Basavaraja R/o No.52/192 Ramya 5th cross, Kirloskar Colony, 1st stage, WOC-Road, Bengaluru 560079 have changed my name to VISHWANATHA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJA affidavit Dt.04/07/2022 notary K.V Mani, B'luru

I, Rajendra Prasad S/o Chakrapani.N R/o Flat.502, Tower-7, Sattva Divinity, Mysuru Rd, Nayandahalli, B'luru 560026 have changed my name to RAJENDRA PRASAD CHAKRAPANI affidavit Dt.04/07/2022 notary K.V Mani, B'luru.

I, Amase Gowda Sidde Gowda R/o #2697, 4th cross, 19th main, J.B Nagar, Bengaluru 560038 have changed my name to A M A S E G O W D A HONNASHETTYHALLI SIDDE GOWDA affidavit Dt.04/07/2022 notary K.V Mani, B'luru

WE, A.Ponnurangam & Pavithra R/o No.51, Ambedkar Colony, Marathahalli Bengaluru 560037 have changed our minor daughter name ASHIKA .P to ALICIA.P affidavit Dt.04/07/2022 notary A.R Muneer Ahmed, B'luru

I, Sahana Hosur Sreenatha Rao R/o Flat.770, Block C6, Austin Town BDA Flats, Bengaluru 560047 have changed my name to SAHANA SHANKAR affidavit Dt.04/07/2022 notary K.V Mani, B'luru

I, Vishal Y, S/o. Yogesh Kumar, R/at 64, 1st floor, 20th 'B' main, venkateshwara layout, BTM 1st stage, Bangalore- 560068, have changed my name as Vishal Mittal Vide affidavit dated 01.07.2022 before notary H.G.Venkataramu Bangalore.

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Ready for booster shots

In the last 10 days, around 70,000 people in city took precautionary dose

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
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The moderate rise in covid-19 cases in the city has prompted many Bengalureans who are above 18 years of age to roll up their sleeves for the booster dose. As per the official data, more and more beneficiaries are reaching out to government vaccination centres and private hospitals to get the precautionary dose.

Over 10,000 individuals in the age group of 18 and above got the booster dose on Sunday. When it comes to those above 60 years of age, over 1,200 people took the jab. In the last 10 days, around 70,000 people have taken the precautionary dose in the city.

"The increase in the number of covid cases in the city might be the reason behind more people coming forward to get the vaccine. The rise in positive cases probably is serving as a reminder for the people that the virus is still around, and they are still at the risk of contracting it," said a representative of a city-based private hospital.

More healthcare and frontline workers are also taking the precautionary dose looking at the uptick in the number of cases in the city.

"There is around a 20% increase in the number of people reaching out for the booster dose over the past one week. With the number of positive cases going up and awareness spread around the safety aspects of the vaccine, more healthcare and frontline workers are also coming up for the jab," said KC General Hospital medical superintendent Dr Venkateshaiah.

"There is around a 20% increase in the number of people coming for booster dose over the past one week –Dr Venkateshaiah, KC General Hospital

Notably, as many as 8.4 lakh individuals have taken the booster dose so far across all age groups. While 2.85 lakh people have got the dose under the age group of 18 to 59, as many as 3.6 lakh individuals above 60 years of age have received the precautionary dose.

File photo of youngsters queuing up for a covid shot in Bengaluru

BM's report on July 4

The BBMP health department has recently started its door-to-door campaign to administer booster doses to senior citizens. As per the statistics, 37% of the population above 60 years of age has taken the third dose.

However, only about 8% of the total adult population has been vaccinated so far. While there are 91.7 lakh people above 18 years of age in the city, only 8.4 lakh have received the booster dose.

16,135 new covid cases in country

India logged 16,135 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of covid-19 cases to 4,35,18,564, while the active cases increased to 1,13,864, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Monday. The death toll climbed to 5,25,223 with 24 new fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated. The active cases comprise 0.26 per cent of the total infections, while the national covid-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.54 per cent, the ministry said. An increase of 2,153 cases has been recorded in the active covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours.
A total of 3,32,978 samples were tested on Sunday, taking cumulative samples tested till date to 86,39,99,907. PTI

Karnataka has best start-up ecosystem

Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Karnataka is numero uno state in the country in providing support to the start-up ecosystem, what with its capital Bengaluru being home to many start-ups including unicorns. According to the latest results of the Ranking of States on Support to Startup Ecosystems released on Monday, Karnataka (along with Gujarat) has been adjudged as the best performers.

By bagging the top honours, Karnataka is a step ahead of other start-up hubs like National Capital Territory of Delhi and Telangana (Hyderabad). The states were evaluated in seven broad reform areas. With 26 Action Points ranging from Institutional Support, Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Access to Market, Incubation support, Funding Support, Mentorship Support to Capacity Building of Enablers. The exercise plays a crucial role in easing the business environment for start-ups in the country. Karnataka was also a top scorer in the following categories: institutional champion, innovative leader, procurement forerunner, funding leader and capacity building pioneer. The state lost only in mentorship champion and incubation hub categories.

Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles Piyush Goyal who gave away the awards said there was a need to focus on developing start-up ecosystems in districts with help of all the start-up related schemes.

Process of selection

According to the Press Information Bureau, "The consideration period for the third edition of the States Startup Ranking Exercise was 1st October 2019 to 31st July 2021. The documentary evidence submitted was evaluated over a 6-month duration."

K'taka's Sini Shetty is Femina Miss India World

Rajasthan's Rubal is 1st runner-up and Shinata from UP is 2nd runner-up

Sini Shetty from Karnataka was on Sunday announced the winner of Femina Miss India World 2022 title at the grand finale of VLCC Femina Miss India here.

At the ceremony, hosted at the Jio World Convention Centre, Rajasthan's Rubal Shekhawat emerged as Femina Miss India 2022 first runner-up and Shinata Chauhan from Uttar Pradesh was named Femina Miss India 2022 second runner-up.

The winning beauties strike a pose: (From left) Rubal Shekhawat, Sini Shetty, Shinata Chauhan

Actors Neha Dhupia, Dino Morea and Malaika Arora, designers Rohit Gandhi and Rahul Khanna, choreographer Shiamak Davar, and former cricketer Mithali Raj were part of the jury panel for the evening.

The pageant in its hybrid format had launched a nationwide hunt to find prospective talents from all corners of the country through virtual auditions. The extensive scouting drive and subsequent interview rounds culminated with the shortlisted selection of 31 state winners, a note from the organisers stated.

"These shortlisted finalists arrived in Mumbai and underwent rigorous training and grooming sessions, mentored by the best in the industry, to compete for the coveted Femina Miss India World 2022," the note further read.

Dhupia, former Femina Miss India Universe, said the journey of Femina Miss India brings back "memories of the priceless experiences I've had with this pageant".

"It's almost like reliving every moment of my journey with these young glamorous girls who are so full of enthusiasm and capability to take on the world with power and elegance.

"Certainly, there are challenges with the digital process in the wake of the pandemic, however, I'm confident it will be as exciting and worthwhile irrespective of the layout," the actor said in a statement.

Star-studded evening had performances by actors Kriti Sanon, Lauren Gottlieb, and Ash Chandler

The star-studded evening witnessed performances by actors Kriti Sanon, Lauren Gottlieb, and Ash Chandler. The show was hosted by Maniesh Paul.

VLCC Femina Miss India 2022 was co-powered by Sephora, Moj and Rajnigandha Pearls. PTI

No crypto for China
Chinese internet, tech giants signed an initiative to ban cryptocurrency and digital collectibles (NFTs)

BangaloreMirror | 8
Tuesday, July 5, 2022
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IT'S 2022. WHERE ARE WATERPROOF PHONES?

Find out why we don't have phones totally impervious to water at a time of tech marvels

While manufacturers have successfully increased the water-repelling nature of smartphones, they are still far from "waterproof". A water-resistant product can usually resist water penetration to some extent, but a waterproof product is (meant to be) totally impervious to water.

Last week, Samsung Australia was fined A$14 million by the Australian Federal Court over false representations in ads of the water resistance of its Galaxy phones. The tech giant admitted that submerging Galaxy phones in pool or sea water could corrode the charging ports and stop the phones from working, if charged while still wet. Similarly, in 2020, Apple was fined $10 million (about A$15.3 million) in Italy for misleading claims about the water resistance of iPhones.

It's very common for phones to become damaged as a result of being dropped in water.

So why is it in 2022 – a time where technological marvels surround us – we still don't have waterproof phones?

Waterproof vs water-resistant

There's a rating system used to measure devices' resistance against solids (such as dust) and liquids (namely water). It's called the Ingress Protection (IP) rating.

An IP rating will have two numbers. In a rating of IP68, the 6 refers to protection against solids on a scale of 0 (no protection) to 6 (high protection), and 8 refers to protection against water on a scale of 0 (no protection) to 9 (high protection).

Interestingly, the benchmark for the water-resistance rating varies between manufacturers. For example, Samsung's IP68-certified phones are water-resistant to a maximum depth of 1.5m in freshwater for up to 30 minutes, and the company cautions against beach or pool use. Some of Apple's iPhones with an IP68 rating can be used at a maximum depth of 6m for up to 30 minutes. Yet both Samsung and Apple are unlikely to consider repairing a water-damaged phone under their warranties. Moreover, IP rating testing is done under controlled laboratory conditions. In real-life scenarios such as boating, swimming or snorkelling, factors including speed, movement, water pressure and alkalinity all vary. So, gauging a phone's level of water resistance becomes complicated.

Water-resistance

Making a phone water-resistant requires several components and techniques. Typically, the first point of protection is to form a physical barrier around all ingress (entry) points where dust or water could enter. These include the buttons and switches, speakers and microphone outlets, the camera, flash, screen, phone enclosure, USB port and SIM card tray.

These points are covered and sealed using glue, adhesive strips and tapes, silicone seals, rubber rings, gaskets, plastic and metal meshes and water-resistant membranes. After this, a layer of ultra-thin polymer nanocoating is applied to the phone's circuit board to help repel water. Nevertheless, a phone's water resistance will still decrease with time as components age and deteriorate.

A smartphone has much more functionality, which means internal components are more sensitive, fragile, and must be built into a smaller casing. All of these factors make it doubly difficult to afford phones a similar level of water resistance. Adding water resistance to phones also increases their price for consumers (by 20% to 30%, according to Xiaomi's co-founder). This is a major consideration for manufacturers – especially since even a small crack can render any waterproofing void.

Cameras are not entirely impervious to water, but some can tolerate submersion a lot better than smartphones

Keeping devices dry

Apart from nanocoating on the internal circuit boards, applying water-repellent coating to the exterior of a phone could boost protection. Some companies are working on this technology for manufacturers. Future phones might also have circuitry that's fabricated directly onto (waterproof) silicone material using laser writing techniques.

For now, however, there's no such thing as a waterproof phone. If your phone does find itself at the bottom of a pool or toilet and isn't turning on, make sure you take the best steps to ensure it dries out properly (and isn't further damaged). You can also buy a waterproof case or dry pouch if you want to completely waterproof your phone. *(By Ritesh Chugh, Associate Professor, CQUniversity Australia, The Conversation)* **PTI**

BITS & BYTES

BIRD LANDING

A new research from the Oxford Flight Group using computer simulations and Hollywood-style motion capture shows how birds optimise their landing manoeuvres for an accurate descent.

Researchers at the University of Oxford have found that hawks control their flight to ensure the safest landing conditions when perching, even if it takes longer and more energy to do so. Understanding how birds optimise their landing manoeuvres through learning may help in developing small aircraft capable of perching like birds.

In new research published in Nature, four Harris' hawks wearing tiny retroreflective markers were tracked flying back and forth between two perches. Their precise movements were recorded by 20 motion capture cameras positioned around the room, allowing the research team to reconstruct their flight paths on over 1,500 flights. The research team then used computer simulations to understand why the birds chose their particular path to the perch. **IANS**

IT RULES WORRIES

More than 85 per cent of social media and internet intermediaries feel that the harsh compliance mandates in the new IT Rules 2021 would negatively impact the ease of doing business in India, a new report showed on Monday.

From the originator traceability to keeping a threshold of 5 million users to be designated as a significant social media intermediary in India, the industry stakeholders surveyed during the report expressed concerns over several portions of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines & Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, introduced by the IT Ministry in February last year.

The report, titled 'IT Rules, 2021: A Regulatory Impact Assessment Study', by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and The Dialogue, recommended enabling a progressive intermediary liability regime, instilling procedural safeguards for assisting law enforcement agencies, and furthering a uniform and transparent content blocking regime.

WFH takes a toll on the liver

Making lifestyle changes, exercising and reducing alcohol consumption can improve one's liver health

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As Work From Home is being slowly phased out, Bengaluru doctors are seeing a rise in cases of liver pancreatitis and fatty liver. Coupled with a sedentary lifestyle and a new-grown addiction to alcohol, the liver of some Bengalureans is reeling under the impact of two years of abuse.

While the cases were low during the pandemic for various reasons, the pandemic-fuelled love for the bottle has contributed to the cause. Doctors are seeing a 50-60 per cent increase in liver pancreatitis and fatty liver now and the age group of these individuals remains between 25-30, according to doctors.

Doctors say that while most of them were moderate drinkers, the absence of a social deterrent in the form of social interactions with peers has been a primary reason for the downslide.

Dr Veerendra Sandur, Lead Consultant - Med. Gastroenterology & Hepatology said, "There has been an increase in alcoholic pancreatitis and fatty liver by about 50% since the time pandemic started. At present we have about 10 patients admitted due to various liver problems attributed to excessive consumption of alcohol."

Many don't accept that their consumption of alcohol has increased. The number of cases started to rise after the second wave. Dr B S Ravindra, Director - Department of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Fortis Hospitals, informed, "Mostly, we see patients between the age of 25-30 years that are coming with this problem. The work from home has catered to a social scenario where they are cooped in their home offices with no interaction with their colleagues. The demarcations between home and office have reduced and people have been feeling stuck. Now, the occasional weekend drink has changed to daily drinking. Social deterrents preventing them from becoming full-blown alcoholics like peer interactions and the requirement to attend offices physically have been removed from the equation. It's hardly possible to identify inebriated employees through a computer screen."

Doctors say that alcohol consumption is not the only leading factor. It's a combined impact of alcohol, sedentary lifestyle, lack of social interaction, and increased consumption of fast food that is leading to the situation.

" We are also seeing a rise in fatty liver cases, especially non-alcoholic fatty liver. Out of 10 liver diseases I am seeing eight cases of fatty liver cases. In the last week, non-alcoholic fatty liver has also gone up. High-calorie food consumption and sedentary lifestyle is the primary culprit," said Dr Amruthesh T.M, Senior Consultant – Gastroenterology, Sakra World Hospital.

Dr Sreenivasa D, Consultant, Medical Gastroenterology, Manipal Hospital said that alcoholic pancreatitis could present with pain in the abdomen, can lead to organ failures and can be life-threatening. "It can have a prolonged course as well. Whereas fatty liver leads to slow liver damage in a percentage of people affected. It takes more than a decade for the liver to get damaged. Patients with alcoholic pancreatitis have slightly increased by 20% in the last 2 years. In contrast, the fatty liver is gone up by 30-40% due to a combination of lack of exercise, more alcohol intake, and eating a lot of junk foods. We are seeing the problem in the age group of 30 to 50," he added.

Lifestyle change is the key

Bengaluru doctors say that the only course of action is to bring about a major lifestyle change. People should try to have more social interaction and increase exercise as part of their regimen. " For any liver diseases, the abuse needs to be for a longer period. When toxins get accumulated, it presents in the form of damage to the liver. While exercise cannot reduce the impact of high consumption of alcohol on the liver, it can help regulate obesity and the associated impact on the liver. Exercising at least 30 minutes, and eating meals with sufficient gap times could help prevent liver diseases." said Dr Ravindra.

"People need to consume a low-fat, low carbohydrate and high protein diet to counter the effects of a sedentary lifestyle. At least 45 minutes of exercise is recommended," advised Dr Amruthesh.

MIRRORLIGHTS

Older adults' desire to give away money linked to Alzheimer's: Study

Willingness to give away money could be linked to the earliest stages of Alzheimer's disease, suggests a study.

Sixty-seven older adults who did not have dementia or cognitive impairment completed a laboratory task where they decided whether to give money to an anonymous person or keep it for themselves. They also completed a series of cognitive tests, such as word and story recall.

Those who gave away more money performed worse on the cognitive assessments known to be sensitive to Alzheimer's disease, according to the study published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease.

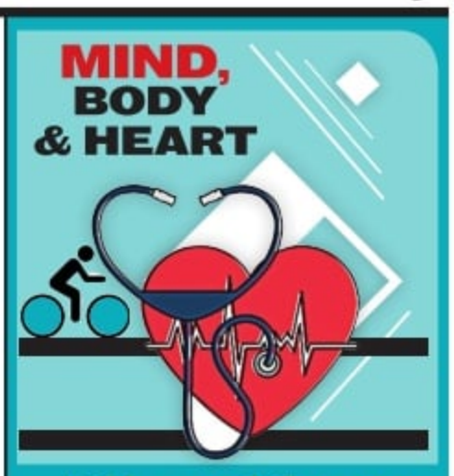
"Our goal is to understand why some older adults might be more susceptible than others to scam, fraud or financial exploitation," said Duke Han, a professor at the University of Southern California.

"Trouble handling money is thought to be one of the early signs of Alzheimer's disease, and this finding supports that notion," he added.

Earlier research that tested the link between altruism and cognition relied on self-report measures but the present study used real money to examine the link.

"To our knowledge, this is the first study to explore the relationship using a behavioural economics paradigm, meaning a scenario where participants had to make decisions about giving or keeping actual money," said Gali H. Weissberger, lecturer in the Interdisciplinary Department of Social Sciences at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. The team recruited 67 adults for the study, who were paired with an anonymous person completing the study online and were then given $10 and instructed to allocate it.

Participants who gave more away scored significantly lower on the neuropsychological tests known to be sensitive to early Alzheimer's disease. —IANS



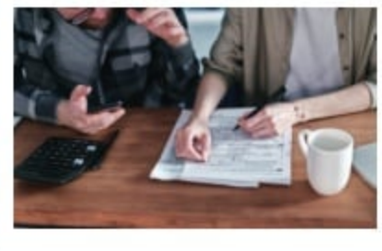
All problems solved

Dear Coleen

My partner and I have a four-year-old son and we both work, although I earn more than he does. He pays his share of bills and household expenses, but I take care of pretty much everything else.
He never has any money left at the end of the month and has no concept of saving. He's now told me he wants to go away for the weekend with his mates, but needs to take some money out of our joint savings account to do so. It's a joint account, but I've put all of the money into it! I love him, but I feel resentful that he's not contributing enough, but I find it really hard to talk to him about money, as it's always a trigger for an argument.

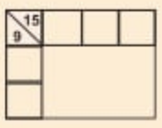
COLEEN SAYS

Money is hard to talk about, but if you're in a serious relationship and have a child and a home together, then you need to be able to discuss it. I think there's probably resentment coming from both sides here – you resent him for not contributing enough and having a bit of a slack attitude, and he might resent you for holding the purse strings and effectively acting like his mum and dad, giving him pocket money.
He might feel he doesn't have any say when it comes to money because you earn more than he does.
If I were you, I'd use this lads' trip as a jumping-off point to discuss how you manage finances between you. But don't get angry and blame him for anything – try to calmly discuss how you can do things better, so you both feel OK with it.
You're supposed to be a team and support each other, and this should cover every aspect of your lives together, including your money.
—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

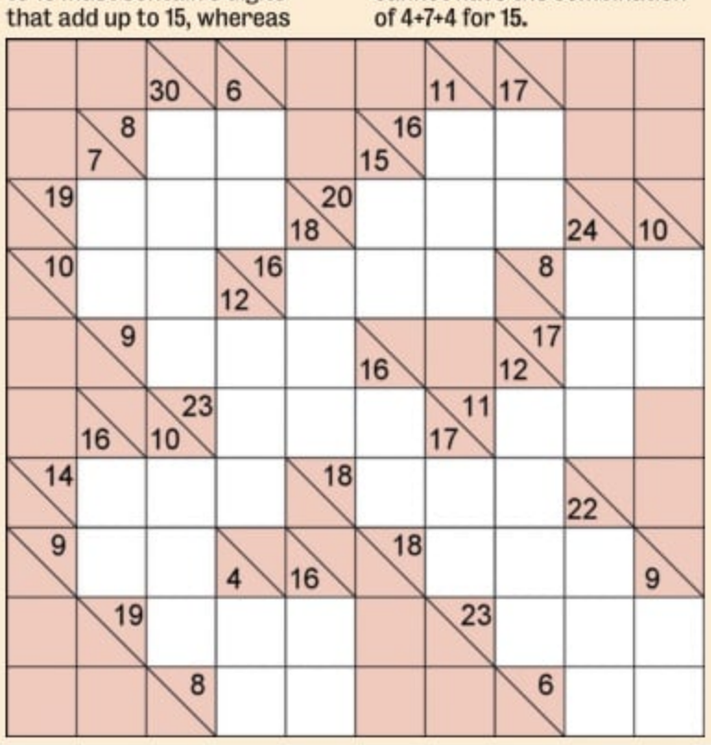


Kakuro

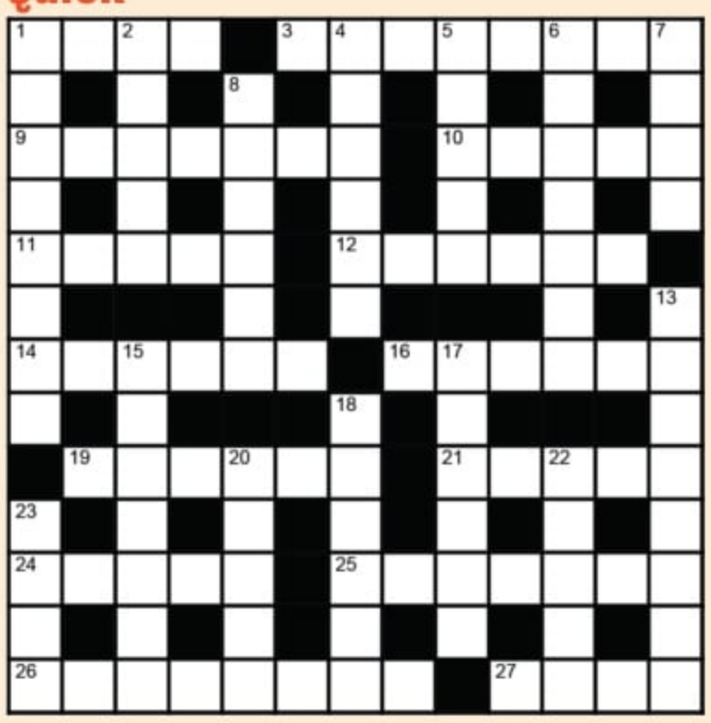
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 South African currency (4)
3 Differential or integral for a maths student? (8)
9 Israel port city (3,4)
10 National park home to tigers, panthers and elephants (5)
11 Mushrooms (5)
12 Mollycoddle (6)
14 Slip by; pass away (6)
16 Rich crowd of fast fliers (3,3)
19 Nation in N North America (6)
21 Motion picture (5)
24 Ascend, go up a ladder or a mountain (5)
25 Merit (7)
26 Wraiths (8)
27 Hardy heroine (4)

DOWN

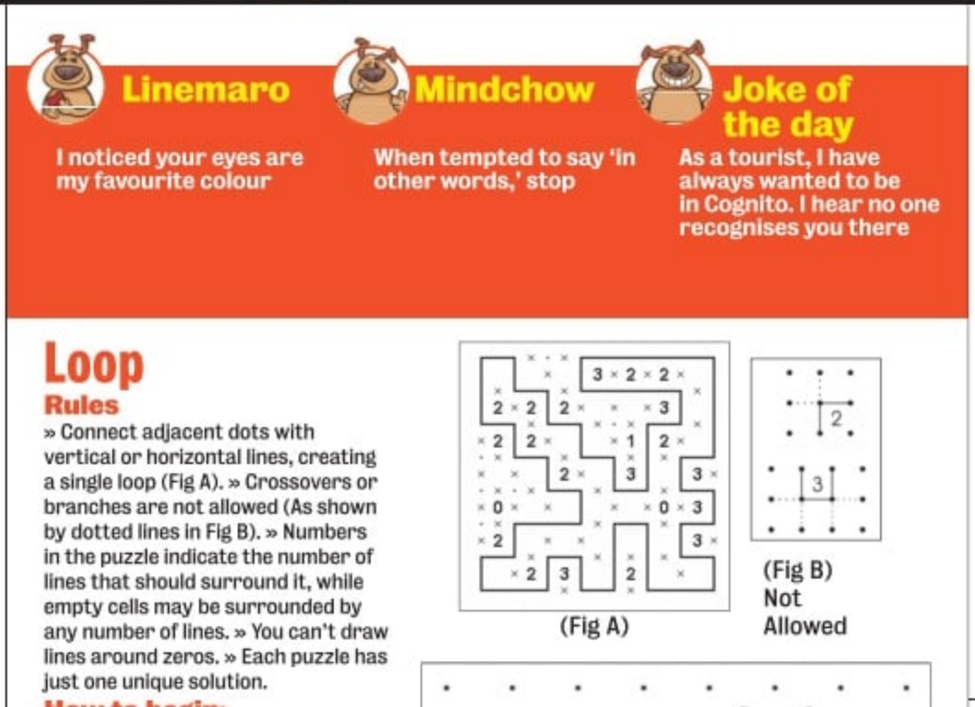
1 Approved and sanctioned formally (8)
2 Synthetic fibre (5)
4 Counsel or opinion (6)
5 Disorder or confusion (5)
6 Pays heed (7)
7 Cut off a bit (4)
8 Dodges or sidesteps (6)
13 Great basilica of the Vatican (2,6)
15 Greed, lust (7)
17 Tangle up as in net (6)
18 Deal with, control (6)
20 Head of a monastery (5)
22 Energetic gusto (5)
23 Performances (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS T

MH OKV UYC EZ QNEGQVNMOC WV XECZAR, WAO MH OKV UYC EZ YUFVNGMOC PEHGMUVN.



Linemaro

I noticed your eyes are my favourite colour

Mindchow

When tempted to say 'in other words,' stop

Joke of the day

As a tourist, I have always wanted to be in Cognito. I hear no one recognises you there

Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

How to begin:

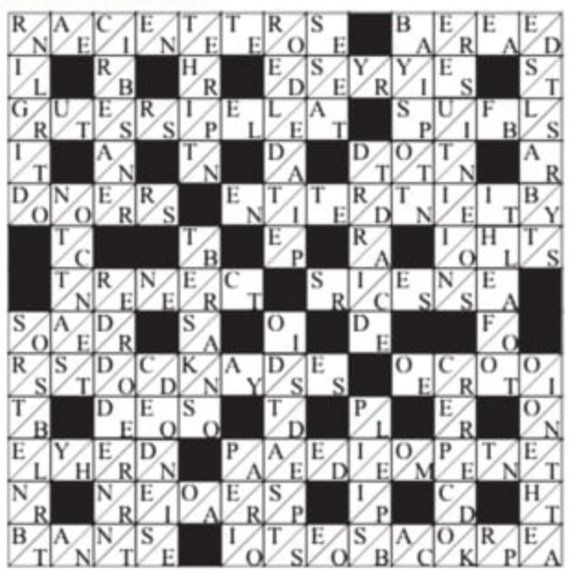
Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

(Fig A)

(Fig B) Not Allowed

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6			M	
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

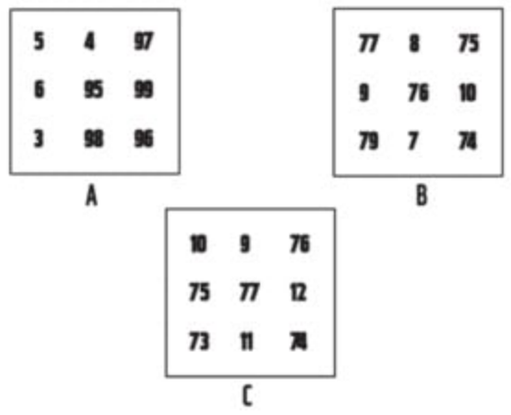
1 Arsis; 6 Medea; 7 Irons; 8 Aider; 9 Re Few

DOWN

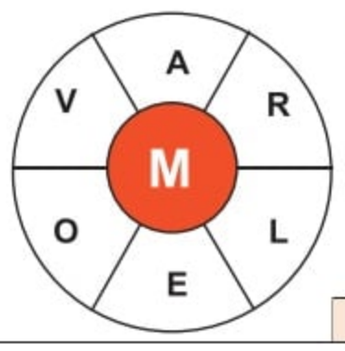
1 Fries; 2 Oread; 3 Wears; 4 I dime; 5 Earns

Mensapuzzle

Multiply the numbers that are midway between the lowest and highest numbers in A and B and subtract the midway number in C.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; 16 Good; 18 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

2					3			
		9						3
3				8	4	6		7
6	2				8			
		5				7		
			1				8	5
8		7	9	5				4
4						1		
			8					2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

÷ × + −

Easy

= 9

1 3 5 8

Medium

= 15

3 4 5 9

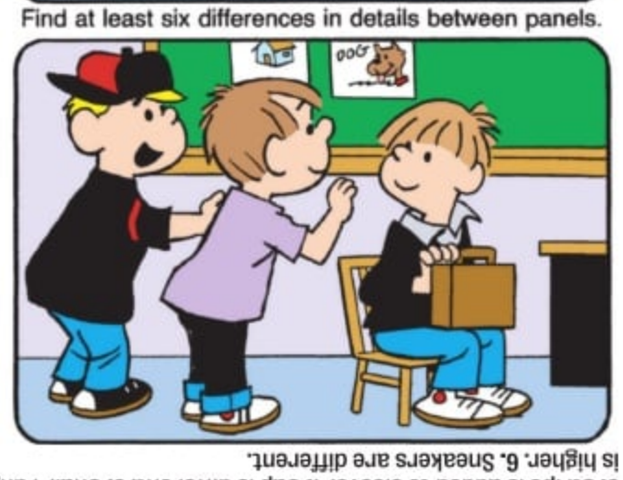
Hard

= 13

3 5 6 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



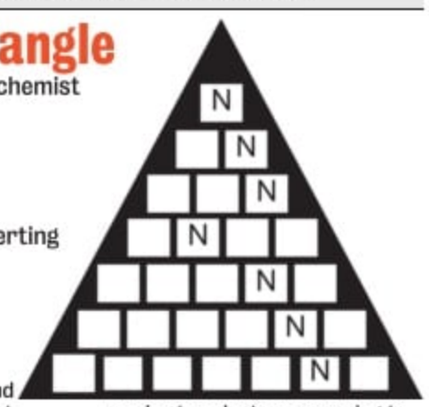
Differences: 1. Desk is moved. 2. Chalkboard isn't as wide. 3. Stripe is added to sleeve. 4. Cap is different. 5. Chair rung is higher. 6. Sneakers are different.

Riddler

For each of the following, find a word that may be appended to each of the three words in the group to form three new valid words. For example, given: "friend, owner, dealer", you would need to find the word "ship", which, when appended to these words, results in the three new valid words: "friendship", "ownership", and "dealership" respectively. 1. back, key, heat 2. flag, soap, sand 3. land, water, hall 4. white, night, fools

Alpha triangle

1 Nitrogen for the chemist
2 Article
3 Pale
4 Chew a bone
5 Breathtaking
6 Beckoning
7 Declaring or asserting



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

COUNT THOSE SHOTS ON YOUR FINGERS
I DID.. THAT WAS NUMBER SIX
POW! POW!
THAT WAS YOUR SIXTH AND LAST SHOT, PALEFACE!
4-21
POW
THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH WEARING MITTENS

Bizarrotrip

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Wayno & Piraro 5-2-22
One day I'll find a fountain I can reach all by myself.
PONCE de LEON: BEHIND the MYTH

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

MR. PITAKIS, YOU'RE GREAT AT SMALL TALK, BUT TODAY I HAVE A COMIC BOOK I'D LIKE TO READ. IS IT OKAY IF WE DON'T TALK?
HEART OF THE CITY © 2022 ANDREWS MCMEEL
...
SURE! I HAVE TWENTY MINUTES LEFT OF MY PODCAST. NASA FOUND SOMETHING ON ONE OF SATURN'S MOONS!
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY
WAIT, WHAT?!

Crankshaft

DO YOU ALWAYS LOG ON TO YOUR ZOOM PANELS TWO HOURS EARLY?
YES...
BUT I DON'T MIND WAITING IN THEIR WAITING ROOM.
THEY COULD USE SOME MAGAZINES, THOUGH...
crankshaft.comic.com/books
BATIUK & DAVIS
4-28

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you will be blessed by the moon. Things may be under control; you will enjoy at work; your focus may be good which will reflect in your way of working. Your wisdom will help you to go ahead in taking difficult decisions in terms of profession. Your past investments are likely to give profits, which may boost your savings. Speculation is advised to be avoided.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may have a dull feeling. You may be dissatisfied. You may not enjoy your day. You may be a victim of arrogance. It may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you to do something creative at work.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel energetic. You may perform efficiently at work; your hard work may pay you now, which may boost your confidence. Property-related disputes with siblings are likely to be resolved now. Your meeting with some influential people may boost your network. Disputes with the partner may also be resolved.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you will be blessed by the moon which make you happy. You may be polite with the people around you; you may take some difficult decisions in business. With the help of your family members, you are likely to get a big order which may increase the business. You are advised to be careful in throat, ears and eyes issues.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you will be blessed by moon. You may have good internal strength; you may enjoy at work; you may enjoy romantic moments with the spouse which may improve domestic harmony. You are likely to implement new ideas in the family business; your perfection may help you to implement the plans successfully. Job-seekers may find a good job.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be dull and disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance; otherwise, you may face some losses due to your harsh speaking while you are talking with people around you. Lovebirds should be careful in discussing worthless topics; it may be a reason for a break-up.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, there may be peace in your mind. You may plan to invest some capital in the business, which may increase liquidity into your business. Your earnings may boost your bank balance. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in the family life. Singles may likely to find good match. Love birds may take decision to get marry.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be very happy; your losses may convert into profits. Your boss may be happy and appreciate your work. You are likely to have some changes in your place or position at work in terms of promotions. You are likely to control your opponents and hidden enemies. Lovebirds may take some important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, the moon is positive; your destiny will help you. You are likely to visit some religious place with family or friends. You may plan to donate some amount to any religious place or to some charity. Property-related deals are likely to be done. You may plan for an overseas trip for work. You may also plan for higher education. You are advised to drink plenty of water to avoid any kidney issues.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, the moon will be negative. You may be a victim of conspiracies; you are advised to avoid being involved in controversies; you are advised to avoid making arguments in domestic life. You should also avoid rash driving or any adventure tour. You may also be attracted towards the occult. Natives related to research, occult, science, geology may perform their best.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be busy at work. You may be energetic, which may speed up your project. You may be able to take quick decisions which will increase in your business. You are likely to start a new innovation in partnership. Investments in the fixed assets with the business partner is not advised.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you will be blessed by moon; you may perform well at work. You may expect some promotions or transfer in terms of gains. You may also plan to change your current job. Your relations with the seniors will be strong. Old health issues will be cured now. You are advised to control your eating habits; it may create stomach issues.

KIDZONE

Md. Faizan Rashid, 11 Years, Indian School

S Tejaswini, 9 Years, Cluny Convent School

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SOLUTIONS

QUOTE UNCODE
In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider.

SOLVE IN 1M
√25+√16 x √9
5+4x3
5+12 = 17

STRIKE OUT

I	N	N	A	T	O	N	A			
G	U	E	R	I	L	L	A	S	U	B
I	N									
D	O	E	R		E	T	E	R	N	I
O	E	R		A		O		E		
S	T	O	C	K	A	D	E		L	
B										
E	Y	E	D		P	E	D	I	M	E
R		N	E	A	R	S		P		D
T	A	T	S		O	T	O	S	C	O

FAST FIVE

S	A	R	I	S
E	D	E	M	A
R	O	S	I	N
I	R	A	D	E
F	E	W	E	R

RIDDLER
1. stroke – backstroke, keystroke, heatstroke, 2. stone – flagstone, soapstone, sandstone, 3. mark – landmark, watermark, hallmark, 4. cap – whitecap, nightcap, foolscap

QUICK

R	A	N	D		C	A	L	C	U	L
A		Y		A		D		H		I
T	E	L	A	V	I	V		A	N	S
I		O		O		I		O		T
F	U	N	G	I			C	O	S	S
			D		E			N		S
C	A	N	A	D	A		M	O	V	I
		R		B		N		E		T
A										
D		V		H		N				P
E	L	A	P	S	E		J	E	T	S
I		D			E			N		S
F	U	N	G	I		C	O	S	S	E
T		O		L		D	E	S	E	R
C	L	I	M	B		D	E	S	E	R
A		R		B		N		E		T
C	A	N	A	D	A		M	O	V	I
D		V		H		N				P
E	L	A	P	S	E		J	E	T	S
I		D			E			N		S
F	U	N	G	I		C	O	S	S	E
T		O		L		D	E	S	E	R
C	L	I	M	B		D	E	S	E	R
A		R		B		N		E		T
S	P	E	C	T	R	E	S		T	E

MENSA PUZZLE
2,150. 51 is midway between 3 and 99; 43 is midway between 7 and 79; 51 x 43 = 2,193, less 43 (midway between 9 and 77) = 2,150

BULL'S EYE
lame, lamer, loam, male, mare, marvel, meal, molar, mole, moral, morale, more, move, mover, realm, ream, REMOVAL, roam

SUDOKU

2	6	8	7	9	3	5	4	1
7	4	9	6	1	5	8	2	3
3	5	1	2	8	4	6	9	7
6	2	3	5	7	8	4	1	9
1	8	5	4	2	9	7	3	6
9	7	4	1	3	6	2	8	5
8	1	7	9	5	2	3	6	4
4	9	2	3	6	7	1	5	8
5	3	6	8	4	1	9	7	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, An, Wan, Gnaw, Awing, Waving, Avowing.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 8 – 3 – 1 = 9
4 – 3 + 9 + 5 = 15
Medium
6 – 4 x 5 + 3 = 13
Hard

LOOP

KAKURO

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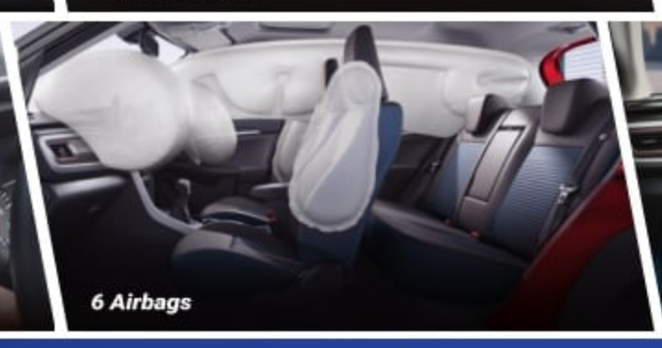
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